

# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

*pro bono humani generis*

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UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

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Dr. A Dudink,  
Univ Amsterdam, Fac Psychol,  
1018 Wb Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Dear Dr. Dudink:

Having followed season-of-birth statistics (avocationally) for some 25 years, I was interested to read:

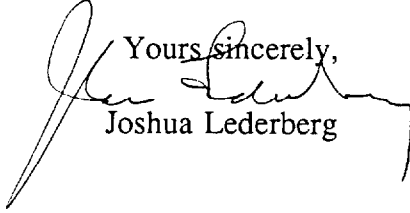
AU - Dudink A #Season of birth; age spread within school cohort  
TI - Birth date and sporting success.  
SO - Nature 1994 APR 14;368(6472):592

and I found it quite insightful.

From my own dabbling, however, I found it quite difficult to extract class effects on the seasonality of occurrence of births -- except to be sure they exist in some measure. Perhaps parents are even aware of the issues of the potential child's placement in their school cohort as part of their planning. Certainly I have heard that discussed. And I even know of some falsification of birthdates on that account!

The effects you summarize seem quite large, and perhaps unlikely to have such an explanation; but I do wonder if you have had the opportunity to investigate the distribution of birth season as related to parents' socio-economic and cultural status. It would be possible to correct for such perturbations by making intra- kindred comparisons; and perhaps intra-school would go a long way.

Yours sincerely,

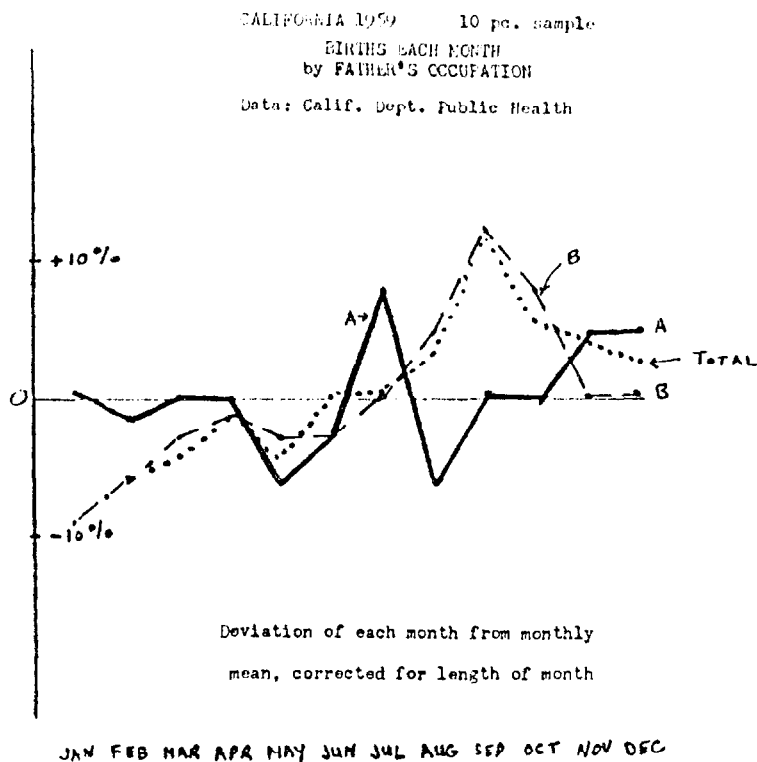
  
Joshua Lederberg

b

Q103

(J.L. 1963)  
 myself.

Figure 2



WHITE, ALL BIRTHS

Occupational groups from sample	A: professional, managerial, administrative	6699 births
	B: remaining categories	24586 births
	Total	319940 births
	California Vital Statistics	

The data were:

a. 566 509 569 545 529 526 617 532 550 571 584 601 5599  
 b. 1383 1774 2001 1970 2008 1940 2108 2203 2298 2250 2040 2111 24586

A  $\chi^2$  contingency test shows highly significant discrepancy:  $\chi^2 = 27.13$ ,  $p < .001$

Figure 1

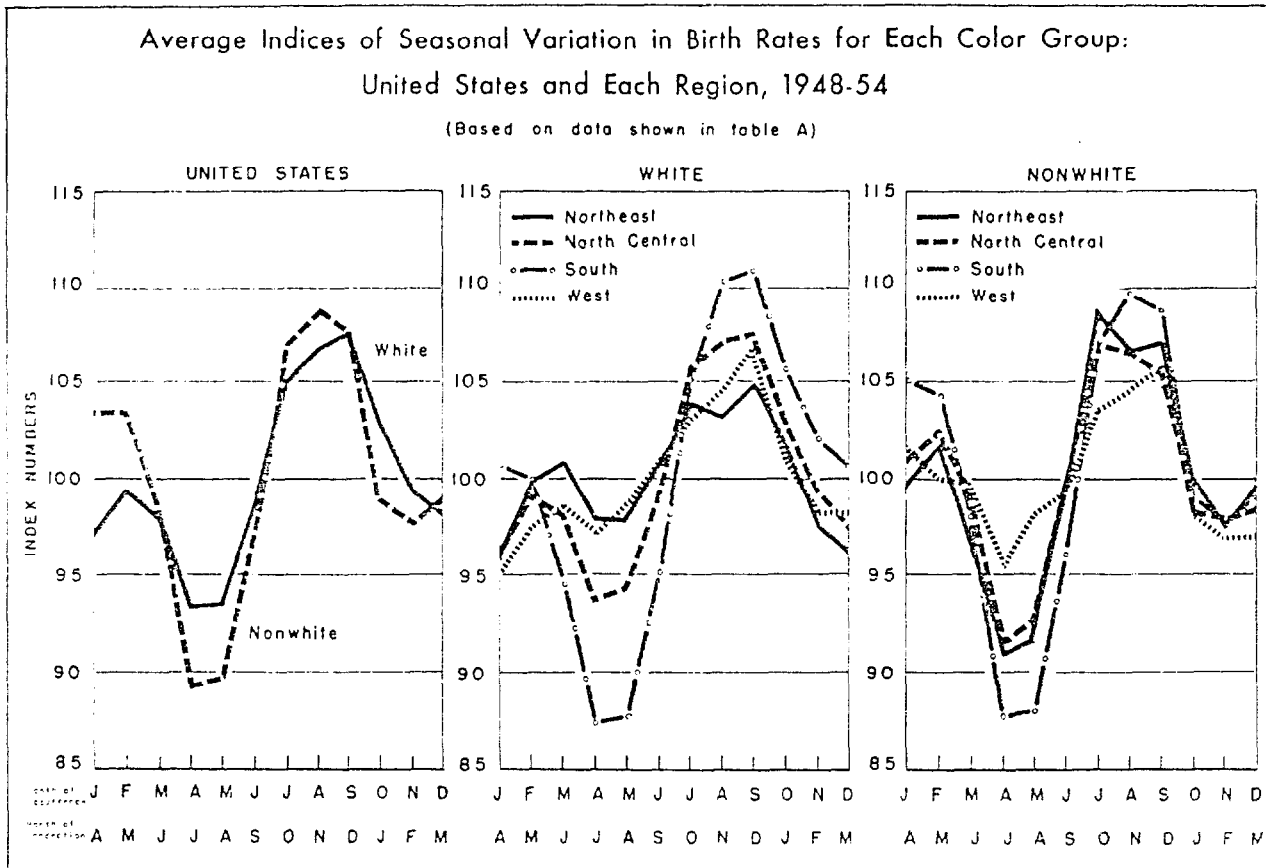


Figure 2

